

Senate Resolution 100

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th and Cowser of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Staff Sergeant Gary L. Lemonds; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
3 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
4 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States recently lost one of its finest and most distinguished citizens
6 in the untimely passing of Staff Sergeant Gary L. Lemonds on January 8, 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lemonds has long been recognized by the citizens of this nation
8 for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
9 welfare of the citizens of the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Social Circle, Georgia, Staff Sergeant Lemonds was inducted into
11 the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary heroism during his service in Vietnam for which
12 he received the Bronze Star with Valor, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, and three
13 Purple Hearts; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lemonds demonstrated great strength, leadership, and courage
15 in Vietnam, single-handedly charging an enemy bunker and destroying it with grenades, then
16 going on to eliminate a hostile entrenchment system, saving the lives of countless soldiers;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lemonds's sense of duty and service did not end on the
19 battlefield, as he was a founding member of Post 233 American Legion Riders, founder of
20 the Ride for America, and the organizer of and active participant in the American Legion
21 Legacy Ride, an annual fund raiser for the education of children of fallen soldiers; and

22 WHEREAS, the untimely passing of this highly decorated American hero leaves an
23 unfillable void in the hearts and lives of his family and friends; and

24 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lemonds embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning
25 in something greater than himself and serving as a guardian of this nation's freedom, and it
26 is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and
27 distinguished American be recognized appropriately.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 express their deepest and most sincere regret at the passing of Staff Sergeant Gary L.
30 Lemonds; commend his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the
31 citizens of his country; and extend to his family their most profound appreciation for all
32 members of the United States military who stand ever ready to lay the ultimate sacrifice upon
33 the altar of freedom.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Staff Sergeant Gary L.
36 Lemonds.